

a monthly publication of the
Tennessee Valley Authority

InsideTVA

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Riding Hard

CREATIVE SERVICES DESIGN
DIRECTOR MIKE BIDDLE MASTERS
THE TERRAIN OF THE RACCOON
MOUNTAIN TRAIL SYSTEM. | page 12

TVA's Proud History of Planting Trees

page 3

PARADISE FOSSIL PLANT SYSTEM
ENGINEER TAKELLIA THOMAS'

job rocks

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TVA is an equal-opportunity and affirmative-action employer. TVA also ensures that the benefits of programs receiving TVA financial assistance are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability or age.

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Inside TVA is available on the TVA Website at www.tva.com/insidetva



HOT TOPICS

Howorth Nominated To Join TVA Board

President Obama nominated Richard Howorth of Oxford, Miss., to join TVA's board of directors. Howorth is the owner of Square Books, a well-known independent bookstore, which he founded in 1979. He served two terms as mayor of Oxford, from 2001 to 2009, during which time he was chairman of the authority overseeing the Oxford Electric Department.



Howorth also served eight years as a director and officer of the North Mississippi Industrial Development Association, an economic development consortium made up of power association directors and mayors of cities in 29 Mississippi counties in the TVA service area.

He is a former president and chairman of the board of the American Booksellers Association, the nation's trade association of bookstores established in 1900. Howorth has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mississippi. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, he will serve on the TVA board through 2015.

TVA Files Its Integrated Resource Plan



In March, TVA filed its Integrated Resource Plan, "TVA's Environmental and Energy Future," and Environmental Impact Statement with the Environmental Protection Agency to outline the federal utility's strategic direction for providing reliable, low-cost and cleaner electricity over the next two decades.

The plan will help TVA meet its renewed vision to be one of the nation's leading providers of low-cost and cleaner energy by 2020. More specifically, the plan will help TVA lead the nation in improving air quality and greater nuclear power production and lead the Southeast in increased energy efficiency.

The strategic direction outlined in the Integrated Resource Plan, which will be formally presented to the TVA board of directors in April, recommends a broader diversity of power-generation sources — including greater use of nuclear power, natural gas and renewable sources and less reliance on coal — to help lower emissions and control costs. Natural gas produces significantly lower emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide than coal, and nuclear power produces no emissions of these substances, which are factors in environmental issues such as air pollution and climate change.

TVA's new Integrated Resource Plan places greater emphasis than in the past on lowering carbon emissions and on increasing energy efficiency, which helps control future costs by reducing the need to build new power plants.

'Who We Are and Where We Work' Returns in May

Next month, *Inside TVA* will reprise last year's issue giving numbers of TVA employees and where we work, along with other handy information about TVA.



ON THE COVER

COVER PHOTO – Creative Services Design Director Mike Biddle takes advantage of the 17-mile trail system encircling the 528-acre reservoir supporting TVA's Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage generating plant near Chattanooga. The trails have become a popular destination for hikers and mountain bikers from around the region. Photo by Damien K. Power.

A Deep-Rooted Tradition

BY BILL SITTON

TVA's proud history of tree planting carries on with a field designed for removing carbon from the atmosphere.

On March 4, a crew of workers planted row upon row of seedling-sized oaks and poplars — 9,000 trees in all — on a 17-acre demonstration plot near Watts Bar Dam.

Since TVA started restoring forests across the TVA region in the mid-1930s, it has planted close to 1 billion trees. Over the years, tree planting has served to control erosion on barren hillsides, stabilize shorelines, improve water quality in streams and rivers, and enhance habitats for wildlife.

The current project has a different purpose. It is designed for natural carbon sequestration — the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere — to help TVA learn the process of turning those oaks and poplars into certified carbon credits.

"This demonstration plot marks the first time TVA has planted trees specifically

for the purpose of generating carbon offsets," says Ed Stephens, a program manager for TVA Technology Innovation. "But we had an outstanding depth of forestry experience to tap into right within TVA."

Planting trees has been a vital element in TVA's storied conservation legacy. In fact, the TVA Act specifically lists one purpose as "to provide for reforestation and the proper use of marginal lands in the Tennessee Valley."

In the 1930s, TVA established two major production tree seedling nurseries in Clinton, Tenn., and near Muscle Shoals, Ala., says Jack Muncy, manager of Natural Resource Programs for TVA. These nurseries produced approximately 25 million seedlings annually for plantings by TVA, other federal and state agencies and private landowners. The nurseries provided a backdrop for TVA to conduct vital genetic research to create heartier and disease-resistant varieties

of native tree species.

As TVA transferred its nursery technology to other agencies, it continued to focus on efforts to put trees back on eroding lands for watershed protection. TVA provided forestry expertise to assist in the reclamation of former surface coal mine lands; denuded lands in the Copper Basin of Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina; and marginal agricultural lands.

Today, TVA's tree-planting efforts benefit reservoir properties, streams and rivers through erosion control, shoreline stability, water quality and wildlife habitats.

"TVA's planting nearly a billion trees since 1933 has helped improve the air, natural habitats, the water (by reducing runoff), and has benefited our region by preserving its special wooded beauty," says Anda Ray, senior vice president of Environment & Technology. ■



DAMIEN K. POWER

Armed with seedlings to plant on a field near Watts Bar Dam were (l-r) Environmental Scientist Mark Wolfe, Senior Advisor Suzanne Fisher, Program Manager Ed Stephens, Environmental Scientist Allan Mays and Forester Mark McCreedy.

TVA Historic Tree Planting

PHOTOS COURTESY TVA PHOTO ARCHIVE



At left: tree planting in 1941. Center: the pre-reclamation Copper Basin. Right: planting along a reservoir bank.



DAVID LUTTRELL

Fire Protection Engineer Joy Williams makes use of a new Glutton.

Sequoyah Recycles

A new fleet of “Glutton” stations helps employees support TVA’s “responsibility” goal of recycling half its trash by 2015.

Employees at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant knew the recycling campaign was for real when they saw 27 large blue Rubbermaid “Glutton” dumpster stations installed on-site. “Now I have a place to put my bottles!” says Fire Protection Engineer Joy Williams.

The Glutton stations are made up of two 56-gallon containers and four “Slim Jim” 23-gallon ones — all under one hinged lid. Each lid has eight restrictive openings — four circles for bottles and cans, two slots for paper, one square for cardboard and one triangle for organic trash. In addition, small recycling containers are being placed at each person’s workstation.

Sequoyah got funding from TVA’s Environment & Technology Business Operations organization to buy the containers and desk-side receptacles to help motivate employees and make it easy to recycle.

TVA is on track to meet a federal goal to reuse or recycle 50 percent of its trash by fiscal year 2015.

“I applaud Sequoyah’s ingenuity and practicality in demonstrating leadership through its recycling efforts,” says Anda Ray, Environment & Technology senior vice president and TVA’s Sustainability officer. “The impact adds up quicker than most people think. If every employee and contractor working at TVA recycled a quarter of a pound of bottles, cans, paper or cardboard, it would be the equivalent of keeping about 1,500 pickup trucks full of garbage from going to the landfill.”

Want to know how you can ramp up recycling efforts – or have ideas on how to help TVA achieve the goal of recycling 50 percent of solid waste by 2015? E-mail sustainability@tva.gov (listed in the Outlook address book as “sustainability”).

TVA Conducts Annual Sport Fish Survey

Anglers, boaters and anyone interested in the health of sport fish are invited to observe TVA’s annual survey of sport fish populations.

The survey, which has been conducted yearly since 1995, collects data on sport fish species such as black bass and crappie. This year’s survey will be held at 11 reservoirs through May 17.

The fish are collected using boat-mounted, electro-fishing equipment. The units harmlessly stun the fish for a brief time and bring them to the surface, where TVA biologists examine and evaluate them. Once weighed, measured and counted, the fish are released.

Biologists collect and record information on abundance, distribution, age, relative weight and general health of the fish. The results are shared with state agencies to protect and improve sport fishing.

TVA fisheries biologists leave designated boat ramps at 7:30 a.m. and survey the fish until mid-afternoon. Participants with life jackets may join survey crews in TVA boats, or they may follow in personal boats. For more information, call the TVA Environmental Information Center at 800-882-5263 or visit <http://www.tva.gov/river/fishsurvey.htm>.



DAVID LUTTRELL

TVA Fish Biologists Donny Lowery and Pete Mangum collect fish to be checked for health.

the ABC's of TVA Benefits

Ever get confused about terms you read or hear about your TVA benefits? Understanding the basics can help you get the most from your benefits.

Flexible Benefits Plan

TVA's medical, dental, flexible spending accounts, supplemental life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment benefits are provided under a Flexible Benefits Plan. The plan is intended to qualify as a "cafeteria plan" under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code, allowing employees to choose between different types of benefits.

What this means to you: Employees save money by paying for these benefits before taxes. It also means you should choose your benefits wisely. Employees can change their benefits only during open enrollment or if they experience specific life events as determined by the IRS.

Deductible and Co-insurance

Deductible is the amount you are responsible for paying up-front before the plan pays any benefits (excluding preventive care).

Co-insurance is a percentage you must pay for your covered services after you have met your deductible.

What this means to you: Check the status of your deductible by using BlueAccess at www.bcbst.com. Save for these expenses (and save on taxes) by setting money aside in a Healthcare Flexible Spending Account or Health Savings Account for Consumer-Directed Health Plan participants.

Provider Network

This is a panel of physicians, hospitals, pharmacies and other health-care professionals who have contracts with plan administrators to provide services, typically at a negotiated rate of payment.

What this means to you: You receive a higher level of benefit from your plans by using in-network providers. You also may pay less out-of-pocket because non-network providers can bill you for any difference between actual charges and the amount approved for payment by the plan administrator.

Explanation of Benefits

This is a statement you receive from the plan administrator that explains what was paid for each claim. It shows items such as date of service, provider, claim amount, savings amount, paid amount and amount owed by you.

What this means to you: You can easily review your Explanation of Benefits online by using BlueAccess at www.bcbst.com to make sure your claim was processed correctly and you are being charged the correct amount by your provider.

Appeals

If a claim is denied, you have the right to appeal.

What this means to you: If all or part of your claim is denied and you believe

this decision is in error, you can have the claim reviewed. For a denied medical claim, you must first call the BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Customer Service department. If the issue cannot be resolved, you can submit a Level 1 appeal to BlueCross BlueShield. If you're still not satisfied with the outcome, you may submit a Level 2 appeal to TVA. The appeal form is available on BlueCross BlueShield's website or by calling its Customer Service at 800-245-7942.

Learn more about your benefits on eBenefits on InsideNet or at www.tva.com.

Attention Employees Only:

Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program

Open enrollment season - April 4 through June 24, 2011. (Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is open only to actively at-work employees and their spouses who are not currently enrolled in the program.)

The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program provides benefits to help with expenses of nursing-home care, assisted-living facilities, in-home care and other services not covered by medical plans.

Visit www.LTCFEDS.com/apply/ to apply online or to download and submit your application by mail or fax.

For more information, visit www.LTCFEDS.com or call 800-LTC-FEDS (800-582-3337).

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT NUCLEAR

In the wake of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, all eyes turned to nuclear power around the world. In response, TVA's nuclear leaders acted quickly to answer questions from employees and the media in an open and complete way.



JIM NESBITT



JIM NESBITT

Top: Journalists tour Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant on media day. **Above:** Browns Ferry Site Vice President Keith Polson, left, talks to a reporter during the media tour.

Employee Forum

On March 16, Chief Operating Officer Bill McCollum, Chief Nuclear Officer Preston Swafford and Senior Vice President of Nuclear Generation Development & Construction Ashok Bhatnagar talked with TVA employees at a forum that is posted on streaming media on InsideNet.

McCollum started out by describing the purpose of the meeting: "One, it's to dispel rumors and misinformation and tell employees what we know to be true. Two, to recognize that a lot of information is out there, but not all of it is accurate. And three, to recognize that TVA employees are interested and the industry will be impacted."

Swafford showed graphics of and described the different types of

reactors. The boiling-water reactors at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant are similar in design to those at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear facility. Sequoyah and Watts Bar use pressurized-water reactors.

He gave an overview of plant safety systems and noted the differences between Japan's boiling-water reactors and those in the United States.

In response to the crisis, said Swafford, TVA set up a centralized-response team in a "war room" in the Lookout Place building in Chattanooga, which conducted daily teleconferences with industry leaders both nationally and internationally.

Bhatnagar said that site selection for nuclear plants is a detailed process.

He added that, as a result of the crisis, TVA had taken some immediate actions and “will look for lessons learned on our emergency responses. We are working both the technical and the communications sides. One vital thing we’re going to be looking at is the concept of ‘stacked’ scenarios, like an earthquake and a tsunami.” He noted that TVA is on schedule with the construction of the Unit 2 reactor at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, but “TVA expects that lessons learned from Japan will result in at least incremental changes in the project.”

In the question-and-answer session, one employee asked about the future nuclear plant planned for the Bellefonte site. “We will likely delay the project,” said Swafford. “We have time, so we are going to take it to re-evaluate the criteria and look at the ‘stacked’ scenario concept. There is so much we still don’t know, so we’re going to come back later for a decision.” McCollum added that, “while we may slow the project down, it’s important not to stop.”

Media Day at Browns Ferry

On March 25, about 60 journalists, representing 25 media outlets, attended a media event at Browns Ferry. The group included local reporters from cities across the TVA territory and national media outlets including CNN, Bloomberg, Reuters, Associated Press and *The New York Times*.

The session began with briefings by McCollum and Swafford on how the plant works, a discussion of safety systems and a discussion of events in Japan and how Japanese and U.S. plants compare.

Following the presentations, 15 reporters and cameramen participated in a tour of the plant. Because Browns Ferry Unit 2 is currently in a refueling outage, the group was able to see areas of the plant not normally accessible. “This was an excellent opportunity for TVA and the Nuclear Power Group to be proactive



CLETUS MITCHELL



TRAVIS BRICKEY

Top: Chief Nuclear Officer Preston Swafford (right) makes a point with reporters during media day at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. Above: Satellite dishes outside Browns Ferry on media day. Right: Swafford talks with 60 journalists in the briefing room.



CLETUS MITCHELL

in showing our commitment to safety,” Swafford said.

The tour included stops at the Unit 1 turbine-driven reactor core isolation cooling system and a large pressure-relief system known as torus, the refuel floor/used-fuel storage pools and the diesel generators, as well as other safety systems throughout the plant. “We believe the session helped to demystify nuclear power for the public, reaffirm TVA’s commitment to safety and give the media a better understanding of how nuclear power works,” Swafford said. ■

TVA employees and retirees are encouraged to share the following with friends and families:

- TVA wants to assure communities and stakeholders that its reactors operate safely and that they play a vital role in our power system.
- In particular, it’s important for everyone to know that TVA’s Nuclear Power Group trains, prepares and works every day to ensure the safety of TVA’s nuclear plants.
- We have a responsibility to constantly learn, improve and do what it takes to keep our plants safe.
- Based on the events in Japan, we are re-examining the programs we have in place to respond to natural events or to significant losses of plant systems. This way, we will be doubly sure that we can maintain the level of safety we train, prepare, and work for every day.



Retiree Helps Cultivate a New Crop of Gardeners

BY JULIE TAYLOR

Gardening is second nature for civil engineer James Bedsole. Growing up in Birmingham, Ala., he learned everything he knows about gardening from his parents.

When the Muscle Shoals Chapter of the TVA Retirees Association needed someone to head the Gerald Williams Cooperative Garden Program 12 years ago, the members chose Bedsole, a civil engineer who retired from TVA in 1998 after 33 years and also had tended his own garden since the 1960s.

TVA launched the cooperative gardening program in 1975. It was named for Gerald Williams, then TVA's director of agricultural development. The retirees association eventually assumed the program.

Each year, low-income families in Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties in Alabama can apply for the program — a partnership of the retirees association, Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., the Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama, the Auburn University Extension Service and local churches.

For six weeks, TVA retirees answer calls from applicants. TVA provides office space for these volunteers, as well as a greenhouse and forklift for other retirees who unload and repackage 1 ton of seed.

Every participant receives a bag of fertilizer; tomato and pepper plants; and seeds for beans, corn, cucumbers, okra, turnip greens, peas and squash.

"The program gives families a means to feed themselves," says Bedsole. "They plant their own gardens and grow their food."

Supplies were distributed for more than 900 gardens last year, and the program will grow to 970 gardens this year.

Each garden costs about \$20.

"If someone in need were to take that \$20 and go to the grocery store, they wouldn't be able to buy very much," says Tammy McDaniel, executive director of the Community Action Agency. "They can take the \$20 worth of garden supplies and grow enough food to feed their household all summer. If they can or freeze some of what they grow, they can have food to last them through the winter."

After all of the supplies are distributed on April 15, Bedsole will pause for a moment before he begins thinking about the next year.

"I will say a prayer for bountiful gardens," he says. ■

New Faces in the TVA Retirement System

Allen Stokes Elected Seventh Director

At the TVA Retirement System Board meeting on March 8, retiree **Allen E. Stokes** was unanimously elected by the other board members as the seventh director. His term expires Oct. 31, 2012.



A lifetime resident of Norris, Tenn., Stokes retired from TVA in 2007 after a 30-year career that began at the Engineering Lab in Norris. For most of his years at TVA, he worked as an auditor, financial analyst and project manager in the Chief Financial Officer's organization.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Stokes is a certified internal auditor, a certified information system auditor and a certified information security manager.

Justin Vineyard: Retiree Communications Liaison

Justin Vineyard, a counselor in Retirement Benefits, has been appointed the TVA Retirement System Retiree Communications liaison.



In the past, he has conducted retirement consultations with employees, facilitated workshops focused on long-range planning and served as the point-of-contact for Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees Retirement System employees. As the point-of-contact for TVA Retirees Association chapter presidents, he answers questions, schedules speakers and sends out communications bulletins.

Along with project-management certifications, Vineyard holds a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

new retirees

37 Years

Delores A. Brogan, Financial Services, Knoxville

34 Years

Deborah S. Wright, People & Performance, Knoxville

30 Years

Charlene L. Evans, Office of General Counsel, Knoxville

Sandra L. Priddy, Fossil Power Group, Drakesboro, Ky.

Russell W. Tompkins, River Operations, Chattanooga

28 Years

Gary C. Miller, Nuclear Power Group, Spring City, Tenn.

24 Years

Steven M. Davis, Information Technology, Chattanooga

Steven P. McDonald, Power System Operations, Muscle Shoals, Ala.

23 Years

James L. Goins, Nuclear Power Group, Spring City, Tenn.

Gaylon F. Hicks, Nuclear Power Group, Decatur, Ala.

Stephen J. Saunders, Nuclear Generation Development & Construction, Chattanooga

Paul G. Trudel, Nuclear Generation Development & Construction, Soddy Daisy, Tenn.

21 Years

Terry Earl Mayfield, Nuclear Power Group, Decatur, Ala.

Robert J. Steele, Fossil Power Group, Stevenson, Ala.

Bernice J. Tinch, Nuclear Power Group, Soddy Daisy, Tenn.

20 Years

Mark Edward Dennis, Financial Services, Soddy Daisy, Tenn.

NEW EMPLOYEE

ALPHONSO RICHARD

Senior Manager, Development, Rotational — Nuclear Generation Development & Construction



DAMIEN K. POWER

Al Richard joined TVA on Jan. 31 after four years as a site superintendent with the Shaw Group's Mixed Oxide Project at the Savannah River site in Aiken, S.C. He had previously worked 15 years for Bechtel — 13 years at Savannah River and two as superintendent for Balance of Plant at the Waste Treatment Plant Project in Hanford, Wash.

In his rotational assignment as a senior manager for development, Richard manages strategic projects for Nuclear Generation Development & Construction and oversees a cross-functional team that is reviewing ways to simplify work packages, the subsets of larger projects, and make them more end-user friendly for craftsmen in the field.

Richard grew up in Clinton, S.C., and earned his bachelor's in management in 1992 from Clemson University, where he also played defensive tackle on two conference championship teams. Richard's family will be moving from Aiken to Chattanooga after the school year. He and his wife, Helen, have three children.

In his spare time, Richard loves to read. As a licensed Baptist minister, he enjoys religious books like those of Myles Munroe of the Bahamas Faith Ministries International.

Until recently, Richard also gained inspiration from "friends" like the Hulk and Spider Man in his collection of 160 comic books, which he sold to clean out a closet. "I liked the way the heroes always used their super powers to overcome evil for good," Richard says. "I especially liked the Hulk. The madder he got, the stronger he got, which ultimately equaled doom for all of his enemies. He would always rise to the occasion of whatever his enemies threw at him."

NEW EMPLOYEES

Thelma Leetha Abazid, Chattanooga, Environment & Technology
Stephen Kent Adams, Chattanooga, People & Performance
Michael William Almon, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Thomas Harold Ahutt, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Michael Paul Anderson, Knoxville, Office of Inspector General
Jeremy David Bailey, Soddy Daisy, Nuclear Power Group
James Michael Bryant, Chattanooga, River Operations
Derek Lee Ball, Cookeville, Power System Operations
Travis Lee Barber, Cumberland City, Fossil Power Group
Robert Charles Barnes, Chattanooga, Information Technology
Joshua Martin Blair, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
William Barry Boothe, Memphis, Fossil Power Group
James Garfield Boshears, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Rebecca Darlene Bridges, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Sherry J. Bridges, Decatur, Financial Services
Gary Cornelius Bright, Chattanooga, Financial Services
Michael Dewayne Brown, Chattanooga, Financial Services
Michael Alan Bunnell, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Daniel R. Burns, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
George Cross Cannon, Drakesboro, Fossil Power Group
Brian Joseph Carroll, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Dennis Michael Casteel, Decatur, Financial Services
Debbie Ann Chapman, Chattanooga, Environment & Technology
Jonathan Edward Collins, Knoxville, Financial Services
Phillip Eugene Cooper, Stevenson, Fossil Power Group
James Henry Copenhaver, Chattanooga, Financial Services
Laura Jean Daniels, Knoxville, Financial Services
Marc Durhan Flippin, Chattanooga, Fossil Power Group
Donald R. Foster, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Tallion Ray French, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Andrew Griffin Frye, Chattanooga, Environment & Technology
Patrick O. Fulp, Rogersville, Fossil Power Group
Christopher Alan Futrellm, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Lloyd Allan Glidewell, Jackson, Power System Operations
James B. Godbee, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Brenda Leann Guss, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Terry Alan Harvey, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Benjamin Allen Hazlerig, Rogersville, Fossil Power Group
Paul A. Herrmann, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Holli Y. M. Hess, Soddy Daisy, Nuclear Power Group
C. Jason Ho, Chattanooga, Financial Services
Laura Darlene Huffstetler, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Ruth Michele Lancaster, Chattanooga, People & Performance
Brian Kent Lee, Chattanooga, Strategy & External Relations
Rocco J. Lepere, Chattanooga, Financial Services

Julie D. Lyons, Chattanooga, Environment & Technology
John Patrick Maddalena, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Robert Edward Marjonen, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
William Harold Masengil, Chattanooga, Environment & Technology
Nathan Hale Mathis, Nashville, Strategy & External Relations
Donald Lee May, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Richard Keyes Metcalf, Knoxville, Information Technology
Amanda Blair Muller, Chattanooga, Power System Operations
Samantha Reed Murray, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Raymond Dale Nolan, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Molly Perry Ogle, Knoxville, Strategy & External Relations
Duane C. Olcsvary, Chattanooga, Financial Services
Timothy L. Parsons, Chattanooga, Power System Operations
Sarah L. Pierce, Chattanooga, Environment & Technology
Michael Todd Pinkard, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Richard, Price, Memphis, Fossil Power Group
Lynne A. Purdy, Chattanooga, Nuclear Power Group
Timothy Wayne Reeves, Chattanooga, Power System Operations
Bill Garnett Roddy, Chattanooga, Environment & Technology
Daniel Asher Rosener, Chattanooga, Information Technology
Henry Duncan Ross, Knoxville, People & Performance
Jesse C. Rutherford, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Donald Roy Server, Chattanooga, Financial Services
Andrea Elizabeth Skeen, Knoxville, Financial Services
Charles Franklin Smith, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Walter Franklin Smith, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Justin Edgar Smith, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Billy Marlin Snow, Gunterville, River Operations
Derek Ray Standridge, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Edward Mathon Stinnett, Nashville, Strategy & External Relations
Ann Marie Storberg, Knoxville, Financial Services
Jamal Thompson, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Stanley Aaron Tinin, Cumberland City, Fossil Power Group
Anthony Allen Tipton, Chattanooga, Nuclear Power Group
Russel Curt Van Tuyl, Knoxville, Information Technology
Steven Dewayne Vaughn, Spring City, Nuclear Power Group
Paul David Wagner, Chattanooga, Nuclear Power Group
Darryl Thomas Wallace, Tuscumbia, Fossil Power Group
Erin Kathleen West, Hollywood, Nuclear Generation, Development & Construction
Rebecca Denton Whitson, Knoxville, Power System Operations
Harold Robert Williamson, Decatur, Nuclear Power Group
Jeffrey A. Wilson, Stevenson, Fossil Power Group
Kelley Diane Wright, Muscle Shoals, Fossil Power Group

Applause!

Nesbitt and Johnston Win EPRI's Generation Technology Transfer Award

During ceremonies in New Orleans, **David Nesbitt** and **Jesse Johnston** received the Electric Power Research Institute's 2010 Generation Technology Transfer Award for their work on a project funded by TVA Technology Innovation and Allen Fossil Plant in partnership with EPRI.

Under Nesbitt and Johnston, both of whom are program managers based in Chattanooga, temperature sensors were installed in a steam drum, part of the boiler where steam is collected, inside a unit at Allen. The sensors measured temperature and surface stress at the point where water is added, something that had never been done before. Even a slight change in temperature can cause the drum to crack. Data from the study, completed in 2009, showed how such monitors can identify problems before they happen.

"This research was the first of its kind at the time and is expected to help operators avoid conditions that could damage a steam drum," said Steve Halcomb, TVA project manager for Clean & Renewable Energy Technologies. Halcomb nominated Nesbitt and Johnston for the award.

EPRI annually recognizes industry professionals who have led technology efforts on behalf of companies like TVA. After an extensive review, the TVA project was selected as one of 12 winners of the 2010 award.



Jesse Johnston (left) and David Nesbitt (center) receive their award from Tom Alley of the Electric Power Research Institute.



Butch Massey, general manager of Demand Response, has been selected for the board of directors of the Association for Demand Response & Smart Grid. His participation allows TVA to partner with the association and to cultivate a demand response "community" of policymakers, utilities, system operators, technology companies, consumers and other stakeholders.

Brownsville Wins Best of the Best Award

The Brownsville Combustion Turbine Plant Operations & Maintenance entry won a "Best of the Best" citation at the *Combined Cycle Journal* 2011 Best Practices Awards, held April 11 at the Combustion Turbine Operations Task Force Spring Turbine Forum in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Brownsville's entry, titled "Operations, Maintenance and Technical Expertise Integration Adds 220 Megawatts," tackled the problem of the units being inoperable when temperatures dropped below 50 degrees. The solution focused on three areas: 1) gas turbine and feed-water control logic enhancements, 2) efficiency improvements in the generator and 3) key instrument-freeze-protection upgrades.

The entry reflected contributions from Plant Manager **Danny Clayton**, Site Foreman **Dean Frederick**, Machinist **Frank Herndon**, Outage & Projects Manager **Zach Cowart**, Senior Systems Engineer **Clinton Lafferty**, Systems Engineer **Robert Patrick** and Combustion Turbine Technicians **Carl Byrd**, **Chris Ritchie**, **Thomas Robertson** and **Ron Willis**.



Senior Systems Engineer Clinton Lafferty (right) receives Brownsville's Best of the Best award from Scott Schwieger, senior editor of *Combined Cycle Journal*.

Mitchell Wins Young Professional Award

The Bowling Green (Ky.) Area Chamber of Commerce honored Valley Relations Program Manager **Nancy Mitchell** with its Athena Young Professional Award, which recognizes an emerging community leader.

Mitchell is a 2002 graduate of Murray State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in organizational communication with a minor in marketing. She earned her master's in business administration in 2008 from Western Kentucky University, and she is a 2009 graduate of the Leadership & Management for Accelerated Performance Program at Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management.



Nancy Mitchell, center, after receiving her Athena Young Professional Award from Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Rodney Rodger and Angela Martin of Martin Cadillac, the award's presenting sponsor.



Penny Judd has been named senior program manager for Community Relations. Judd has served as program manager for Valley Relations for the past five years. Prior to working at TVA, she served as social assistant in the Office of Legislative Affairs at both the White House and the Office of Management & Budget. In her new role, Judd will work to strengthen TVA's reputation and community involvement across the region in the areas of civic partnerships, corporate giving, educational initiatives and volunteerism.

my job rocks

BY JULIE TAYLOR

TVA employees are on the job 24/7, keeping the lights on, running the river system, managing TVA lands and supporting TVA's operations. In this column, you'll hear from TVA employees who can say, "My job rocks!"

TAKELLIA THOMAS | SYSTEM ENGINEER, PARADISE FOSSIL PLANT

TaKellia Thomas still recalls the best advice she ever received.

It came from a speaker visiting one of her freshman classes during her first week at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He encouraged the students to take the time to seriously think about what they enjoyed doing and then choose a major accordingly.

Thomas was listening and knew she loved math, science and problem-solving as a student at Chattanooga's Brainerd High School. She followed her heart to UTC's College of Engineering and earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering four years later.

Thomas was hired in 2009 by TVA's Fossil Power Group as a system engineer at Paradise Fossil Plant in Drakesboro, Ky. — a big adjustment for someone who had lived her whole life in Chattanooga.

Her busy job leaves little time for being homesick, though. She is responsible for the plant's fire-protection and coal-handling systems. With three coal-fired units consuming some 20,000 tons of coal per day at the plant, she says both systems are critical and must be operational at all times.

Her job varies from monitoring system health to writing problem evaluation reports to suggesting equipment maintenance.

"Working at TVA has been a great experience," Thomas says. "I learn something new every day, and there is never a boring moment. My job keeps me on my toes."

For Thomas, her co-workers make all the difference.

"I enjoy my group's team attitude," she says. "They are always there to help, which makes everything go that much better."

Thanks to her positive outlook, Thomas is always looking ahead and never gets bogged down with yesterday's challenges.

"My main goal is to progress and move forward," she says. "I think the greatest things about TVA are the training opportunities and progression planning." ■

As a Paradise Fossil Plant system engineer, ▶
TaKellia Thomas never has a boring moment.



DAMIEN K. POWER

Happy Trails

TVA and the Chattanooga chapter of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association received the 2010 National Partnership Award from American Trails, a national nonprofit organization that works on behalf of trails, for their work on the Raccoon Mountain trail system near Chattanooga. The 17-mile trail system is a popular destination for hikers and mountain bikers.

The Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association works to promote land access, trail preservation and new trail development in the Southeast. Staff and volunteers provide training for builders to create trails that prevent erosion as well as promote "Leave No Trace" policies with outdoor enthusiasts to reduce their impact on the environment.

